(b) if so, the details of such incidents;

(c) whether in the recent attack the Naxals not only killed the police personnel in Orissa but also took away their weapons;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have ever conducted any study regarding the growing influence of Naxals among poor people;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) the estimated cadre strength of Naxalities; and

(h) the steps taken by Government to contain the growing influence of Naxalites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) The details of naxalite attacks during 2006 and 2007 are given below:

| | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|
| Total number of incidents: | 1509 | 1565 |
| Total number of casualities of security forces: | 157 | 236 |
| Total number of casualities of civilians: | 521 | 460 |

(c) and (d) In the night of 15th February 2008, naxalite cadres attacked police establishments in Nayagarh and Ganjam districts in Orissa. In the attacks, 13 police personnel and 1 civilian were killed, 6 police personnel were injured and a sizeable number of weapons and assorted ammunition were looted.

(e) to (h) Law and order being a State subject, action with respect to various aspects/ issues related to naxalite activities lies primarily in the domain of the concerned State Government.

The Central Government maintains a close and continous watch on the activities of the naxalities, including detailed consultations with the State Government authorities about the various developments and the steps required to check and control naxalite activities.

Concerned State Governments take necessary action to deal with naxalitie activities. The Central Government supplements their efforts and resources by a variety of measures that include deployment of Central paramilitary forces which work under the control of the State Government concerned, sanctioning of India Reserve battalions, assistance for strengthening of the State police and Intelligence agencies, re-imbursement of security-related expenditure, assistance in training of State police forces, sharing of Intelligence, bringing about inter-State coordination and assistance in development works through a range of schemes of various Ministries.

**Military communication system on borders**

†663. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that military communication system is very weak on the borders of the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government are formulating any specific scheme to modernize the military communication system of the country; and

(c) the likely amount to be allocated by Government for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (c) State-of-the-art communication systems are in place to meet the operational requirements on the borders. Upgradation and modernization of the systems is a continuous process.

**Scheme to allow soldiers to keep families with them**

†664. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a scheme to allow an army soldier to keep his family with him;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of units where soldiers may be allowed to keep families with them by the Government at present; and

(d) the time by when Government proposes to implement this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (d) Married soldiers above 25 years of age are provided married accommodation according to the scales of Authorised Married Establishment (AME). Soldiers at peace/modified field stations are authorized to keep their families with them. Additional accommodation under Married Accommodation Project is also being constructed to increase availability.

**Decrease in number of commissioned officers**

†665. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of commissioned officers in the military is decreasing from the designated capacity;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that number of officers in the military is less than capacity by more than 11,000;

(c) if so, whether Government will formulate any action plan to create awareness among youths regarding recruitment in military; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (d) The overall deficiency of officers in the Army is around 24%. The deficiency has been continuing for some time. Presently, there is shortage of 11,153 officers, mainly in the ranks of Lt. Colonel and below.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.